

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended is respectfully requested.

Objections

It is believed that the informalities noted in claims 1, 4, 9 and 29, and the possible objection to claim 24, have been addressed by the amendments.

Rejection under Section 112

Claim 28 has been amended to remove language giving rise to the rejection. The amendment is not intended to be narrowing.

Rejections under Sections 102 and 103

Without acquiescing, or waiving any right to complain about errors, in the reasoning of the rejections, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of all of the pending claims are now moot in view of the amendments made to claims 1 and 33.

The claims are now recite that packets received at the node are IP packets that include, when received at the node, label stacks with labels used for forwarding the packets between nodes. An example of such a packet, which is given in the specification, is an MPLS labeled packet being forwarded between nodes using a label switched path. The claims contemplate pushing an internal routing label onto the label stack and using it for routing within the node.


It is respectfully submitted that the prior art record does not disclose or suggest using an internal routing label on an IP packet in a method or apparatus as claimed. In particular, the primary references relied upon the rejection of the previously pending claims, the teachings cited by the examiner in Shimojo et al., van Landegem and Timbs contemplate only to ATM cells, switches and networks. It is respectfully submitted that these references cannot anticipate or, in combination, render obvious any of the claims.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the Application is now in allowable form. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of the currently pending claims.

Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fees due but not submitted with this paper to Deposit Account No. 07-0153. The Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's Attorney for any reasons that would advance the current application to issue. Please reference Attorney Docket No. 131105.1011.

Dated: 24 June 2007

Respectfully submitted,
GARDERE WYNNE SEWELL LLP


Marc A. Hubbard
Registration No. 32,506
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT

3000 Thanksgiving Tower
1601 Elm Street
Dallas, Texas 75201-4761
(214) 999-4582 - Telephone
(214) 999-3623 - Facsimile